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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re the application of:

SEIDEL et al.

Serial Number: 09/351,296

Filed: July 12, 1999

For: METHOD FOR SEROLOGICAL TYPING USING TYPE-SPECIFIC ANTIGENS

Group Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: M. Zeman

Atty. Dkt.: 100564-09016

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: August 14, 2001

Sir:

In reply to the outstanding Advisory Action dated August 3, 2001, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

45. A method of detecting the presence or absence of an antibody against hepatitis C virus in a sample liquid, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) incubating said sample liquid which may contain an antibody against hepatitis C virus with two peptides P1 and P2, wherein the peptide P1 consists of (1) an isolated immunologically active amino acid sequence from the hepatitis C virus consisting of 6-22 amino acids from one of SEQ ID NOs: 12-16; (2) an immunologically inactive spacer region coupled to the immunologically active sequence; and (3) a solid phase binding group; and the peptide P2 consists of (1) an isolated immunologically active amino acid sequence from the hepatitis C virus consisting of 6-22 amino acids from one of SEQ ID NOs: 12-16; (2) optionally, an immunologically inactive spacer region coupled to the immunologically active sequence; and (3) a marker group which is (a) coupled to the spacer region and (b) distinct from the solid phase binding group of

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